CIA Panel Abolition Is Urged

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The House Rules Committee yesterday recommended abolition of the embatted House intelligence committee and called for a fresh start to the investigation.

By a vote of 10 to 4, the Rules Committee adopted a proposal by Rep. Richard Bolling (D-Mo.) to reorganize the committee and get the dormant inquiry moving.

Republican-sponsored moves to scuttle the entire investigation and then to limit it to the Cenral Intelligence Agency were beaten down. Similar moves are expected when the issue reaches the House floor, perhaps next week.

The present 10-member intelligence committee was created nearly six months ago to investigate the CIA and the rest the nation's so-called "intelligence community," but it became bogged down, first in a prolonged search for a staff director and finally in an irreconciliable dispute between chairman Lucien Nedzi (D-Mich.), and fellow Democrats.

Most ot the present members are likely to be reappointed to the enlarged 13-member committee, but both Nedzi and his most outspoken critic on the committee, Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.), are expected to be left out.

The fresh choices would be left up to Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) who also made the original selections.

Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.), a member of the House since 1961, was reportedly under consideration to replace Nedzi as chairman. In any case, none of the present committee Democrats is expected to get the post.

The Rules Committee met shortly after a final and reportedly abrasive meeting in Albert's office with Nedzi and the Democratic committee members who unsuccessfully sought his ouster last month. They had accused him of sitting on evidence of CIA misdeeds and violations of law since 1973 as chairman of a standing House CIA subcommittee and maintained that he could not conduct an effective inquiry now.

The meeting with the Speaker was ostensibly one last effort to patch up the rift, but it was fruitless. At one point there was some shouting, reportedly between Nedzi and Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.).

In proposing his solution, Bolling told the Rules Committee that Nedzi and Harrington were the "two poles" of the dispute and suggested that both should be dropped. He said the strength of the other Democrats on the committee, even if reappointed, would be diluted by making the new panel consist of 13 members—9 Democrats and 4 Republicans.

Alluding to the sharp division within the House on the issue, Bolling said that one side feels the committee "has done no good and some harm" in its six fitful months while the other side "feels that members of the Rules Committee are conspiring with the Pentagon to cover up the investigation."

Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.) called Bolling's proposal a "most reasonable and rational approach" and immediately dropped his own suggestion to create a new 10-member committee that would have been confined to investigating the CIA.

Rep. Morgan Murphy (D-Ill.), a member of the intelligence committee as well as of the Rules Committee, and Rep. Andrew Young (D-Ga.) protested that excluding the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and all the other intelligence agencies from the investigation would indeed smack of a "cover-up" in the public's mind.

Rep. James R. Quillen (R-Tenn.), who said he saw no value in a House investigation of the CIA alone, insisted on a straight vote to abolish the Nedzi committee. It was rejected 9 to 4, with Sisk voting "present."